




Connecting **PEOPLE** and **CONSERVATION** in Kansas City

Discover ten acres of gardens, wetlands, walkways and wildlife that surround the Discovery Center building, located near the banks of Brush Creek at Troost in Kauffman Legacy Park. The environmentally friendly building houses information and outreach services of the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Located in the heart of the urban core, the Discovery Center focuses its educational programs on helping urban children and adults appreciate the bounty and beauty of nature, and learn outdoor skills such as hiking, camping, wildlife viewing and growing native plants. Hunting and fishing permits, books, videos and educational materials highlighting the natural resources of Missouri can be purchased in the Missouri Outdoors Nature Shop.



The Discovery Center provides a unique educational experience as well as a quiet place of reflection for residents and visitors alike to enjoy and appreciate nature's offerings.



“There are two *spiritual dangers*
in not owning a farm. One is the danger
of supposing that breakfast comes from
the grocery, and the other that heat
comes from the furnace.”

— **ALDO LEOPOLD**
A Sand County Almanac, 1949

Aldo Leopold understood that our needs for food, water and shelter are provided by the resources of the land. Living in an urban environment, it is easy to lose sight of this connection as merchants and delivery systems supply our needs.

It is also easy to allow our built environment to obscure our natural environment as native plants and animals are removed. The Discovery Center, through demonstration gardens and experiential student workshops, teaches urban citizens how valuable and necessary nature is to the city and to the people who live there.



Discovery Center
Urban Conservation Campus
4750 Troost Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri 64110
(816) 759-7300
www.kcconservation.com

HOURS: Monday—Saturday,
8:00 AM—5:00 PM
Thursdays, 8:00 AM—9:00 PM



Discovery Center

Kansas City's
Urban Conservation Campus



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Learn *from the past...*

Two hundred years ago **Lewis and Clark** explored the Missouri River and described a land of vast resources and natural beauty. Visit our lobby mural and workshop hosts to learn more about the **Corps of Discovery**.

Another link to the past is the reuse of building materials for the Discovery Center. These include masonry and lumber artifacts salvaged from demolished Kansas City buildings. Examine the masonry artifacts in our walls, the roof decking overhead, and wooden display fixtures in the Nature Shop and workshop windows.

Captain Meriwether Lewis

Care *for the present...*



Knowledge and skills to enjoy, protect and enhance Missouri's natural heritage are acquired in six hands-on workshops. Registered groups can participate in:

- **Nature's Bounty** — Learn ethics of hunting, fishing and harvesting wild edibles.
- **Nature's Garden** — Use native plants for landscaping.
- **Exploring the Outdoors** — Learn skills to enjoy hiking, birding and camping.
- **Nature's Palette** — Explore and express appreciation of nature through the visual arts.
- **Woodworking for Wildlife** — Learn habitat requirements for wildlife and build nest boxes and feeders.
- **Nature's Aquarium** — Study watershed models and perform water quality investigations.

The use of native plants in our gardens demonstrates urban landscaping options. Missouri ecosystems are showcased through small versions of upland and lowland forests, prairies and wetlands. Specialty planting areas include hummingbird, butterfly, wildflower and water gardens.

You can help care for the present by joining the conservation and education efforts of the Discovery Center's Volunteer Corps.

Shape *the future...*

Several "**Green Design**" architectural features are integrated into the Discovery Center facility. Alternative energy sources include a geothermal heat pump, plus active and passive solar features.

The Living Machine mimics nature as it cleans wastewater on-site, reuses treated water to flush toilets, and supplies the wetlands outdoors.

Environmentally friendly building materials include calcium-silicate masonry units, glue-laminated beams, and stabilized-earth pavement trails. Bioswales in the parking lot hold and treat runoff before it empties into the storm water system.



Buying recycled products is a very important step in the recycling process. Countertops, paints, carpet squares and restroom stall partitions all contain post-consumer, recycled materials.